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C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 008229

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/17/2015

TAGS: [AMGT](#) [CVIS](#) [PREL](#) [SY](#) [JO](#)

SUBJECT: JORDAN: LOCAL SYRIAN EMBASSY BLOCKS U.S.

DIPLOMATIC VISA REQUESTS

Classified By: CDA Daniel Rubinstein for Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (C) The Syrian Embassy in Amman has unexpectedly rejected 15 U.S. diplomatic visa requests submitted during the last week. One of the visa requests was officially denied, while 14 were returned without processing or explanation. The Syrian Embassy is currently holding another five U.S. diplomatic passports and accompanying visa applications. When asked the reason for its rejection of the visa requests, Syrian Embassy staff responded that they would no longer process Post's requests for visas in Jordan, and that all such requests must now go through the Syrian Foreign Ministry in Damascus. They did not give a reason for this change in policy.

12. (C) Until this change, Post has regularly submitted requests for visas directly to the Syrian Embassy and, if sent early in the morning, often received the approved visas later that same day. Although no official government business has been hampered by the recent denials, a CLO-sponsored shopping trip from Amman to Damascus has been canceled.  
RUBINSTEIN